Export target for the Current Financial Year

861. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the export target for the current financial year compared to actuals in preceding two years;

(b) what facilities are being taken to exporters to boost exports; and

(c) what steps are being taken to improve exports to Australia in the context of Prime Minister's visit to that country and formation of Indo-Australian Joint Business Council?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) The export target for the financial year 1988-89 has fixed at Rs. 18795 crores, as compared to the provisional exports of Rs. 15719.36 crores during 1987-88 and Rs. 12569.33 crores during 1986-87.

(b) The facilities available to exporters include, *inter-alia*, Cash Compensatory Support, Market Development Assistance, Interest subsidy, access to raw materials at International prices, import of selected machinery and plant at concessional rates of duty.

(c) An Indo-Australia Joint Business Council was established during ths visit of our Prime Minister to Australia in October, 1986. So far two meetings of the Council were held: the first at New Delhi in March 1987 and the second at Melbourne in March 1988. The steps being taken to increase our trade with Australia include exchange of rade delegations in identified sectors, participation in trade fairs and exhibitions, meeting of Joint Business Council, Joint Trade Committee, etc.

Liberalisation of Gold Policy

862. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI KAMAL MORARKA:
DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:
SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD TRIPATHI:
SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to liberalise the gold policy soon to some extent; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and the details of the proposal under Government's consideration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) The Rangarajan Committee set up by the Government to examine the question of import of gold and the Gold (Control) Act has submitted its report. The Committee has, *interalia* suggested modifications in the Gold (Control) Act, review of the present ceiling on the aggregate value of gold jewellery that could be brought into India free of duty under the Transfer of Residence Rules 1978 and Baggage Rules 1978.

Naxalite activities in Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh

863. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that naxalite activities have been increasing in Madhya Pradesh during the last 2-3 months;

(b) if so, what are the main reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the naxalite activities have also been increasing in Andhra Pradesh if so: whether the Central